

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

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EFFECTIVE January 14, 1962, vaccination against poliomyelitis will be a requirement for school enrollment. The State Board of Public Health in its December meeting adopted regulations putting California's compulsory school poliomyelitis immunization law into effect on that date.

Students who are already admitted this school year will be required to give evidence of immunization against poliomyelitis when they come up for reenrollment, in most instances next September.

In general, the compulsory vaccination law applies to all pupils enrolled in school from kindergarten through junior college. However, exception from the requirement is provided where immunization is contrary to the belief of the pupil or parent.

The regulations define pupil as an individual of any age admitted to public or private elementary or secondary schools, including kindergarten, through junior colleges and adult education classes. *Admission* means the first enrollment of the pupil into a school in the school year.

Immunizing agents and immunization procedures acceptable for the purpose of the law shall be those approved by the State Health Department. *Immunizing agent* means any currently approved commercially produced vaccine licensed by the Division of Biologics Standards, U. S. Public Health Service, for immunization against poliomyelitis Types I, II and III. Combined vaccines containing other immunizing agents together with all three types of poliomyelitis vaccine, such as commercially available quadruple vaccines, are acceptable if these have been approved and licensed for general use by the Division of Biologics Standards.

For Salk-type vaccines, immunization shall consist of a total of three inoculations at any interval except that the interval between the first and second and between the second and third inoculations shall not be less than two weeks.

A pupil may be admitted to school upon presenting evidence of having received at least one inoculation of Salk-type vaccine. Then evidence must be presented within a period of not more than one year that a series of three inoculations has been completed.

At this time the Sabin attenuated live virus oral vaccine is not considered adequate immunization

because only Types I and II vaccine are available. However, if a pupil has participated in an oral vaccine field trial program and can present evidence of having received all three types of the oral vaccine, he shall qualify for admission.

Evidence of immunization will be a written record given to the pupil or to his parent or guardian by the physician or the agency performing the immunization and shall include the name of the child or adult, date of birth, date of each vaccination, the type of vaccine used and the name of the agency or of the physician administering the vaccine. In the event a written record cannot be obtained parents or guardians of minor pupils or an adult himself may affirm in writing that such immunization has been performed.

For pupils who received immunization before January 1, 1962, a written statement by the parent or guardian (or by the pupil if he is an adult) giving the approximate dates when such immunization was received shall be presented to the school authorities. A statement by a physician or by an agency having administered the immunization is not required for this purpose.

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Questions have arisen regarding the use of the oral poliomyelitis vaccine before the approval and licensing of all three types. The State Health Department has analyzed recent statements concerning this use by the American Medical Association, the Committee on the Control of Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Association of State and Territorial Health Offices, and the U. S. Public Health Service.

Consensus of these statements is:

1. The Salk vaccine should be the vaccine of choice for routine immunization until such time as all three types of oral vaccine have been licensed and are available.

2. The only present recommendation for the use of the type-specific oral vaccine for mass immunization is during periods of epidemic poliomyelitis when the prevalent virus type is Type I or Type II.

The State Department of Public Health concurs with these recommendations.